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the NAC splice variant in which only the more carboxy-terminal splice region is present in the translated polypeptide, thereby including the nucleic acids 1-2869, and 2960-4422 of the NAC cDNA sequence and amino acids 1-956, and 988-1473 of the NAC protein sequence of Figure 1C. The NAC δ cDNA and amino acid sequences are listed as SEQ ID NOS:5 and 6, respectively.

In the claims.

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

Sub D'
C 3 1. (Thrice amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a NB-ARC and CARD containing protein (NAC), comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6, or the complement of said nucleotide sequence,
wherein said polypeptide does not comprise amino acids 957-987 of SEQ ID NO:2, and
wherein said polypeptide associates with SEQ ID NO:2 or with Apaf-1.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-28 and 30-85 are pending, with claims 1, 4-9, 11, 18, 27, 38 and 66-86 under examination. By the present communication claim 1 has been amended.

The specification has been amended at page 5, line 30 to correct an obvious typographical error. Specifically, at page